



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Animal Shelter Working Group

DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, July 30, 2015

Members Present: Rep. John Bartholomew, Joanne Bourbeau, Deb Brown, and Lisa Nelson. All members participated by phone.

Staff Present: Michael O'Grady, Office of Legislative Council. Staff was located in Room 31 of the Vermont State House.

Also Present: A representative of McLean, Meehan and Rice attended the meeting in Room 31.

Recording: CD 20? – 1 and 2

Convene

At 10:30, Rep. Bartholomew convened the meeting via conference call.

Member Identification

As required under the Vermont Open Meeting Law for meetings held electronically, the members of the Animal Shelter Working Group (Working Group) identified themselves.

Overview of Working Group

Michael O'Grady provided background information regarding how and why the General Assembly established the Working Group in Sec. 26a of Act No. 39 of 2015. Rep. Bartholomew provided additional background regarding the establishment of the Working Group.

Scope of Working Group

Joanne Bourbeau questioned whether the scope of the Working Group included review of the shelter requirements for livestock. If the Group's scope included shelter for livestock, Joanne Bourbeau proposed that the Working Group vote to add a representative of large animal/livestock interests.

The Working Group decided that the focus of the Group should be the requirements for the shelter of dogs and cats. However, if the Working Group adequately addressed the shelter of dogs and cats, the Group agreed to possibly revisit the issue of livestock shelter. The Working Group chose not to add an additional member to the Group.

Review of Existing Statutory Standards

Michael O'Grady reviewed the existing standards for the shelter of animals under 13 V.S.A. § 365. Upon completion of the review, members of the Working Group expressed concerns regarding the existing requirements, including the vagueness or relevancy of certain standards and the ability of humane officers to enforce standards.

Review and Markup of Proposed Legislation

Michael O'Grady reviewed a document provided by Rep. Bartholomew that proposed amendments to the shelter for dogs and cats (See Doc. # 308830). The Working Group agreed to use Rep. Bartholomew's proposed amendments as the basis of the Group's recommendations. The Working Group Subsequently requested edits to the proposed amendments. A new draft of the proposed amendments will be circulated to the Group hopefully by the August 7, 2015.

Future Meeting Planning and Discussion

The next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for September 3, 2015 from 10:30 a.m. until Noon. The September 3 meeting will occur via teleconference. A place where the public may attend the meeting will be posted to the website of Vermont General Assembly at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Adjournment

At 12:20 p.m. the Working Group adjourned.
